Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) for the year ended March, 2007 on Performance Audit on Union Government—Indirect Taxes, have *inter alia*, raised certain issues relating to Special Economic Zones (SEZs). These issues mainly relate to achievement of Net Foreign Exchange (NFE) through deemed exports; duty foregone on inputs used in exempt products cleared in DTA; non achievement of NFE positive by certain units; violation of conditions of Letters of Permissions (LOPs); short levy of duty on Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) sales, etc.

(c) and (d) In its audit report, the scope of which covered 2061 Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units, C&AG has observed that 22 units in two SEZs had been achieved the prescribed positive Net Foreign Exchange (NFE) mainly through domestic sales. However, it is to be noted that as per figures compiled for the year 2007-08, physical exports from the SEZs are of the order of Rs. 64623 crore, which is 87% of their total turnover. During this period, the domestic supplies made by SEZs were about 9% and sales in domestic tariff area, not counted for positive NFE, was about 4%. The Approval Committees under the Development Commissioners constituted for all Zones, which comprise of representatives from Customs, Income-tax, State Governments etc. have been directed to monitor the performance of the SEZ units.

Registration of Geographical indications

3887. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many Geographical Indications have been registered in India during the last one year and how it compares with the rest of the world;

(b) how many patents have been registered/granted in India during the last one year and how they compare with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), China and European Union;

(c) whether India is lagging behind in patent registration from developed countries and China; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Thirty-one Geographical Indications (GIs) have been registered in India during the last one year (from April 2007 to March 2008) under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. India compares favourably, with the rest of the world considering that statutory protection for 61 Geographical Indications has been granted in less than 5 years. Many countries have yet to provide for *sui generis* protection for GIs.

(b) to (d) The number of patents granted by the Indian Patent Office (IPO) during the last year and that of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the European Patent Office (EPO) and the State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO), as available from their respective websites, are as under:

Year	Location of the Patent office	Number of applications filed	Number of patents granted	Percentage of grant
2007-08	IPO	35,067	15,261	43.51
2007	USPTO	4,56,154	1,57,283	34.48
2007	EPO	2,18,200	54,700	25.06
2007	SIPO	2,40,161	67,948	28.29

Consequent on continuing efforts made by the Government, the filling of patent applications which impact on the number of patents granted, has increased from 17,466 in 2004-05 to 35,067 in 2007-08. Similarly, the number of patents granted increased from 1911 to 15,261 during the same period. The percentage of patents granted *vis-a-vis* applications filed in the Indian Patent Office is comparable to the percentage in developed countries and China. The measures taken to strengthen the processes that help creation of Intellectual Property Rights in India are as under:

(i) A scheme of Modernisation of Intellectual Property offices at a cost of Rs. 153.00 crore was implemented during the 9th and 10th Five Year Plans for Infrastructure development, computerization, human resource development and training and awareness.

(ii) Four new integrated Intellectual Property Offices were set up in Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai.

(iii) Work for the setting of the National Institute of Intellectual Property Management at Nagpur has commenced.

(iv) E-filing of Patent applications has been made operational with effect from 20th July, 2007.

(v) Seminars/Conferences/Workshops at national and international level have been organized for creating awareness and promotion of Intellectual Property Rights.

(vi) Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have been signed between India and France, United States of America, United Kingdom, European Patent Office, Japan, Switzerland and Germany for cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property Rights.

Involvement of R&R Hospital in illegal organ transplantation

3888. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the involvement of Army's Research and Referral Hospital in illegal organ transplantation have recently came to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to conduct departmental inquiry against the Hospital involved in illegal organ transplantation; and